



G-5's "Eye on AMC"

U.S. Army Materiel Command

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

December 3, 2004

Former POW visits AMC, addresses Soldiers

Former Prisoner of War, Shoshana N. Johnson, visited the Army Materiel Command, Wednesday, to discuss her experience in Iraq and her time in service. Johnson is identified by Army officials as the first female POW of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first black female POW in U.S. war history.

Johnson credits NCOs for her development as a Soldier and admires their quick thinking and leadership skills.

"NCOs are trained to take care of Soldiers, and that's what they did," Johnson said in reference to her experience in Iraq. "I would not be here if it weren't for NCOs."

In addition, during Johnson's tour of the AMC Technology Gallery, she cited some advantages of the new Army Combat Uniform. Since the name and rank are attached to the uniform with Velcro strips, the tags can be easily removed prior to being captured by the enemy.

"This (uniform) would have helped me in my situation," Johnson said.

Johnson retired from the Army on a temporary disability honorable discharge. She currently travels across the country for public appearances and motivational speaking to people of all ages and diverse backgrounds.

TARDEC employees receive research and development awards

Four Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center employees received the Army Materiel Command's 2004 Army Research and Development Achievement Award at the 24th Army Science Conference in Orlando, Fla. The award recipients developed vital military automotive systems that support Soldiers in the Global War on Terrorism.

Capt. Greg Hetzel and Michael Manceor were recognized for their effort in developing HMMWV Armor Survivability Kits. Michael John Clauson was recognized for producing the Vehicle Body Armor Support System, which is a high-performance body armor for truck drivers. Charles Acir was also recognized at the conference for developing the Army Active Protection and Electronic Warfare System. This system integrates advanced survivability equipment and computer programs for hemispherical protection of ground combat systems.

"The hard work of these four individuals underscores TARDEC's commitment to supporting the Warfighter," said Dr. Richard McClelland, director of TARDEC. "Our dedicated associates take great pride in ensuring that the Army remains a relevant and ready force across the operational spectrum."

Soldier organizes unofficial care package drive

A shop foreman at the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center's Intelligence and Information Warfare Directorate, located in Fort Monmouth, N.J., recently organized an unofficial care package drive to assist Soldiers in Iraq, which resulted in more than 4,000 pounds of goods being sent overseas.

The idea for the drive came about after Sgt. Harvey "Rusty" Caldwell returned from Iraq wanting to do something for those who remain abroad.

Caldwell put his idea into action by talking to some of his co-workers to see if they would be interested in donating items that he missed during his deployment. He also contacted Soldiers still in Iraq and asked them to develop their own wish lists. While most of the items were generic, there were a few specific requests.

"You can get tons of Oreo's, but you can't get Nutter Butters," Caldwell said. "You can get Crest, but you can't get Colgate."

As word of the care package drive spread through the CERDEC and Fort Monmouth community, the inventory, such as food, video games, and DVDs kept coming. "I only expected to send, at the most, maybe 50 boxes," Caldwell said. "I never expected to need a forklift to move 10 pallets of packages."